

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection of claims 16-18, submitting that the specification of the present invention teaches that a photographing operation may be performed when the camera-printer system is in a photography mode. In this regard, the Examiner is referred to, for example, page 29 of Applicant's specification, which discusses the photography and reproduction modes and the execution of a photographing operation. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the subject matter objected to by the Examiner is disclosed in the specification. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended the text of the specification. Such amendment is not to be interpreted as an acquiescence of the appropriateness of the rejection. In view of the present amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. p, first paragraph rejection of claims 16-18.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,942,477 to NAKAMURA. Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection.

According to a feature of the present invention, a versatile camera/printer system is disclosed, in which a photographing operation (e.g., generating image data) and a printing (e.g., reproducing) operation can be performed by operating either an image data generating start mechanism (associated with the camera) or a printing operation start mechanism (associated with the printer), as discussed, at, for example, page 28, line 15 to page 29, line 3 of Applicant's specification.

Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking from the applied art of record. In NAKAMURA, a photographing operation and a printing operation may be performed by operating the printer switch 13. However, Applicant submits that only the photographing operation can be performed in NAKAMURA by operating the camera switch 28. That is, NAKAMURA fails to teach or suggest performing the printing operation by operating the camera switch 28.

In the Office Action mailed on August 13, 2003, the Examiner asserts that Applicant argued (in the last response) that both the photographing operation and the reproducing operation are performable by both the camera and the printer, but that he was interpreting the claims as only requiring one of the operations (e.g., photographing or reproducing). Applicant disagrees with this interpretation, but herewith further amends the claims to clarify that both the photographing operation may be performed by operating the image data generating start mechanism (associated with the camera), or, alternatively, by operating the printing operation start mechanism (associated with the printer), and that the reproducing operation may be performed by operating the image data generating start mechanism (associated with the camera). As submitted above, the ability to perform the reproducing (e.g., printing) operation by operating the image data generating start mechanism is not taught or suggested by NAKAMURA. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 16 and 19 (along with their respective dependent claims) are allowable over the applied art of record.

The Examiner also asserts that Applicant argued (in the last response) that when a

release switch 101 or print switch 214 is manipulated a first time, a first operation (e.g., photographing operation) is performed, and that when the release switch 101 or print switch 214 is manipulated a second time (or depressed for a predetermined period of time), a second operation (e.g., printing operation) is performed, but that this feature is not recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion, submitting that this feature is recited in at least originally presented claims 5, 6, 13, 16 and 17.

For example, claims 5 and 13 recite that the image data is printed by the printer in the reproduction mode in accordance with a second operation of either the printing operation start mechanism or the image data generating start mechanism. Claim 6 recites that the photographing operation is performed in the photographing mode in accordance with a second operation of either the printing operation start mechanism or the image data generating start mechanism. Claim 16 recites that the photographing operation is performed in the photographing mode and the reproducing mode in accordance with a first operation of either the release switch or the print start switch, and that the image is printed in the reproducing mode in accordance with a second operation of either the release switch or the print start switch. Claim 17 recites that the first operation comprises a continuous depression over a predetermined period, while the second operation comprises a single depression of less than the predetermined period.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the feature of performing a first operation (e.g., a photographing operation) when a release switch 101 or print switch 214 is manipulated a first time, and performing a second operation (e.g., a reproducing operation)

when the release switch 101 or print switch 214 is manipulated a second time (or depressed for a predetermined period of time), is recited in the claims.

The Examiner also asserted that Applicant argued (in the last response) that the operation mode is changed to the reproducing mode and a wait state (e.g., looping of program steps 104, 130, 132 and 136) is entered after a photographing operation is performed, but that this feature is not recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion, submitting that at least claim 8 specifically recites that a wait operation is automatically performed in the reproducing mode after the photographing operation is performed. In view of the above, Applicant submits that the wait operation (state) feature is recited in the claims. In this regard, the Examiner asserts that NAKAMURA discloses a “wait operation” because the reference discloses a copy switch 17 that causes the printer 12 to print stored contents from memory 16 provided in the printer 12. Applicant submits that such copy switch 17 does not constitute a wait operation, as taught by Applicant, and further, that even if one could consider the two to be equivalent (and Applicant submits one can not), the copy switch 17 of NAKAMURA must be manually operated by a user, whereas the wait operation in Applicant’s invention is automatically performed (without user intervention) after the photographing operation is performed in the reproducing mode. Accordingly, Applicant submits that NAKAMURA does not anticipate the invention, as defined in, for example, claim 8.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the above-discussed features are not taught by NAKAMURA, and thus, the present invention, as defined by the claims, are

distinguishable from NAKAMURA. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass the application to issue.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §714.13, Applicant contends that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Office Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or, alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal. Further, the revised claims do not present any new issues that would require any further consideration or search by the Examiner (the distinguishing feature having been discussed in the last filed response), and the amendment does not present any additional claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

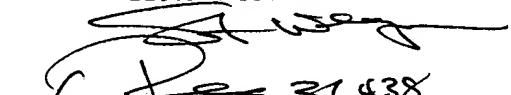
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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